July 22, 2020

Dear SUSD Families,

Thank you for your continuing feedback regarding Scottsdale Unified School District’s 2020 – 2021 Return to Learn plan.

Enhanced Distance Learning/Full-Return Update
In an ongoing effort to be responsive to the needs of students and families, after full return begins, students participating in Enhanced Distance Learning (EDL) who are temporarily unable to return to in-person learning may continue learning virtually, accessing instruction from their home school through the use of technology. This pertains to students who become ill during the school year and families that have health concerns related to returning when schools reopen. This temporary flexibility provides students with the opportunity to continue learning from home, while also maintaining important classroom connections to their SUSD teachers and classmates.

Additionally, students who receive Special Education services in self-contained programs are encouraged to select EDL/Full Return, as that provides the greatest opportunity to access the specialized services of the self-contained program. There will be an ability for Special Education students to continue to access instruction from home, if needed, once schools resume in-person learning.

Operations and Logistics Subcommittee Final Recommendations
In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we know that chief among your many concerns regarding students’ and teachers’ return to school campuses is their health and safety. Here, you can review the final recommendations of SUSD’s Operations and Logistics subcommittee that was charged in May with developing District protocols and procedures for personal protection, hygiene, enhanced facility cleaning and sanitation, recess, passing periods, campus visitors and more, when schools physically re-open.

We have said since the outset of this pandemic that the health and safety of our students and staff is our top-most priority. That is just as true today as it was in mid-March, when these truly unprecedented times first began, and you will see that reflected in the subcommittee’s work. These recommendations, which are being implemented, were developed in accordance with current municipal regulations, county, state and federal public health agency guidance, state education agency recommendations and gubernatorial executive orders for resuming in-school operations, and take into account available District resources.

Instructional Model Selection
We also want to take this opportunity to remind you that parents and guardians have until 5 p.m. this Friday, July 24, to select their students’ first semester model of learning. Students for whom Scottsdale Online is selected will begin the new school year on Aug. 10 with Scottsdale Online. SUSD students choosing the Full Return model will begin the school year on Aug. 10 with EDL, then transition to their campuses when
schools open. If you have changed your student’s selection since this process began, or you would like to change it before Friday’s deadline, we will use the submission with the most recent timestamp.

You can read more about SUSD’s Fall 2020 Return to Learn teaching and learning models at www.susd.org/returntolearn and review the answers to your frequently asked questions about them at www.susd.org/faq. To learn more about the Scottsdale Online option, go to www.susd.org/SOL. Find links to Scottsdale Online class selections and lesson demonstrations here. Please note that students whose parents do not submit a selection form by the Friday deadline will be placed in the Full Return model.

Let’s Talk!
Lastly, we always appreciate hearing from our stakeholders and encourage you to continue communicating directly with SUSD through our new ‘Let’s Talk’ portal.

Thank you,

Scottsdale Unified School District